(d) the reasons as why 1993-94 budget could not be adhered to and why on what account tax revenues went down and expenditure went up;

(e) whether Government had worked out a policy of cross subsidy in respect of fertilisers, foodgrains and electricity by raising administered prices; and

(f) whether Government are considering to tax farmers who are also engaged in trading or industrial activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b). At the end of the last financial year 1992-93, the continued deceleration in inflation and the lower level budgeted for the fiscal deficit of 4.7 per cent of GDP in 1992-93 raised expectations of further decline in the inflation rate of 5 to 6 per cent range. During April-May 1993 the inflation rate actually was 6.9 per cent. From August 1993 the trend was reversed and the inflation rate has since remained between 8 per cent to 8.7 per cent. This uptrend is attributed mainly to the rise in prices of primary articles. due partly to the grant of higher minimum support prices for foodgrains and raw material crops

(c) Increase in the net Reserve Bank of Indian credit to Government for the last three years is listed below:

	(Rs. crore)
1991-92	5160
1992-93	4433
1992-93 (Upto Feb. '93)	8309
1993-94 (Upto 4 Feb. '94)	7033

(d) Net tax revenue to the Centre, as per the revised estimates of 1993-94, is Rs. 54,473 crore against the budget estimates of Rs. 62,739 crore. Shortfall is mainly due to lower realization of customs and Union excise duties. Total expenditure. as per the revised estimates is Rs. 1,43,872 crore against the budget estimates of Rs. 1,31,323 crore. Subsidies are estimated at Rs. 12,400 crore against the budget estimates of Rs. 8375 crore. Defence expenditure has also gone up from the budget estimates of Rs. 19,180 crore to Rs. 21,500 crore. The revised estimates of loans to States and Union Territories, and Central assistance for their plans are also higher than the budget estimates.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) There is no proposal under consideration at present.

Different taxation rates for industries

2101. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN:
SHR SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) why Government have not differentiated on taxation rates applied to power consuming and non-power consuming industries producing the same type of commodities;

(b) whether it is a fact that power based detergent cake and powder producing industries have much lesser labour strength compared to non-power based detergent producing industries which are largely labour intensive;

(c) whether tax incentives are suggested for conversion from power based to non-power based labour intensive industries;

(d) whether it is a fact that non-power based and highly labour intensive industries are easing electricity shortage problem and helping economy in a general way by augmenting employment;

(e) if so, when these incentives would be made applicable; and

(f) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Industries manufacturing goods without aid of power are generally small in size. The general small scale exemption scheme which provides certain excise duty concessions based on value of clearances is applicable to most of these goods. In that scheme small scale units are not required to pay any excise duty for clearances upto Rs. 30 lakhs. This concession is considered adequate for small units manufacturing goods without using power. However, in certain exceptional cases, goods manufactured without using power have been fully or partially exempted from excise duty.

(b) Data about labour strength in power using detergent industries and non-power using detergent industry is not available and the time and effort spent in collecting such data may not be commensurate with the result likely to be achieved.

(c) At present there is no proposal to give any further tax incentives for industries not using power.

(d) Generally, it is true that non-power based industries help in reducing electricity consumption.

(e) and (f). Does not arise in view of (a) and (c) above.

Pre-Budget Discussion

2102. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be peased to state :

(a) whether he had held pre-budget discussion with the economists, industrialists, farmers and trade union leaders recently;

(b) if so, the outcome of these discussions;

(c) whether the suggestions made by them have been reflected in the Union Budget for 1994-95; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. The Finance Minister held pre-budget discussions with Economists, Industrialists, Agriculturists, Trade Union Leaders, Experts in Science and Technology and the Representatives of the Small Scale Industry during December 3-13, 1993. Such discussions are held every year to invite views from a cross-section of society. The suggestions made in these meetings along with various other representations, memoranda, etc. receivd in the Ministry, are taken into account in preparing the Budget proposals.

बिहार में गरीबी उन्मूलन कार्यक्रम

2103. **श्री लक्ष्मीनारायण आनन्द पासवान :** क्या **वित्त** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि बिहार सरकार ने गरीबी उन्मूलन कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत कोई योजना विश्व बैंक को प्रस्तुत की है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है ;

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो क्या भारत सरकार बिहार सरकार द्वारा राज्य में गरीबी के उन्मूलन हेतु वर्ष 1994-95 में क्रियान्वित करने के लिए कोई महत्वाकांक्षी योजना बनाने जा रही है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा० अबरार अहमद) : (क) जी नहीं ।